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FEB 09 2004  
10 & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
TITLE  
APPARATUS FOR CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION OF THE DELIVERY OF  
GOODS

BACKGROUND

Field

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The present invention provides an apparatus for control and certification of the delivery of goods in the field of electronic commerce, and for the concurrent control and certification of the execution of the related payment.

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Description of related art

Electronic commerce" not only refers to the purchase of goods delivered "electronically" (e.g., a document), it also refers to electronic orders of goods delivered through non-computerized distribution channels.

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A POS (Point of Sale) is a system allowing purchase by means of "electronic money" using a card having a magnetized strip, a microprocessor or both or even the mere identification number, usually 16 digits, of a card (cash card, credit card or others). Such card will be indicated with the generic term of electronic card, for ease of reference.

The POS system includes a plurality of elements, some (A1 to A10) placed on the user side, others (B1 to B5) on the side of the company issuing the electronic card:

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A) USER SIDE

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- 1) An electronic card reading device;
- 2) a data input device (keypad);
- 3) a display device;
- 4) a printing device;
- 5) a modem;

6) software for processing of data read by the reading device (bank or credit company code, client code etc.). Data are stored in a buffer for subsequent comparisons. The company code is used to determine the identification number of a company issuing electronic cards to which one can connect. On the other hand, the client code will be

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